



The Soviet team is the only one to have undergone three rounds of the world and European championships in Finland without losing a game. After the Italians in the first game, they went on to defeat their constant rivals for medals in the European championship, Czechoslovakia, 5-3 and Sweden, 7-3.

The USSR team has always had an ace in the hole: the late Viktor Shalimov, who set the tone by joining the game at moments of suspense. Over the past decade, the three crack attackers were Mikhailov, Petunov and Kharlamov. Experts believe that this year's younger team is strong precisely because it has players of about the same standards. The 1982 team has no distinct strikers, yet all the lines show equal ability and each could take over the game equally well.



Soviet striker Viktor Shalimov seems to have a flair for critical goals.
Photo by TASS correspondent Igor Utkin exclusively for "MN"

19th TITLE FOR TTT

The TTT women's basketball club from Riga have defeated Leningrad Spartak, 84-60, to win up the championship with six rounds still to go, their 19th such title yet.

Win for a start

Sverdlovsk Uralochka women's volleyball club beat Japanese champions Hitachi, 3-1, in Tokyo at the start of their tour there.

Soviet national hockey team takes the lead



Vladislav Tretyak minding the Soviet goal.

During the USSR national championship, concern was aroused by the style of the attack. Shalimov, Shupalev and Kapustin. However, in Finland, Shalimov, who scored three goals in the game versus the Tio Kronor is particularly active.

Playing with Larionov and Kharlamov, inward Makarov, despite his perfect technique, has yet to "find" his game, in the match against Czechoslovakia in

laced the goalie and even hit the penalty, scoring no goals. Supported by the powerful defence—Fetisov and Kasimov, who are always ready to shoot hard to support the squad, his trio are a force to reckon with.

The same level is maintained by the two other trios—Tymur, Gohkur and Kozhevnikov, and Khramov, Zhukov and Dvornitsky, even though coaches have some complaints in their regard.

As a goalie, Tretyak is like a stone wall. So far, the Soviet team has performed best of all, with an excellent difference of 21-8.

One of the most tense matches so far has been the game between Sweden and Canada which was drawn, 3-3. Another championship sensation was the Italians who, making their debut, beat the United States, 7-5.

The Finns have warmed up to the game leading both the West Germans 14-31 and the Americans 14-2. As this paper went to print, the fourth round matches were in progress—Sweden vs Italy and Canada vs West Germany in Helsinki; and USA vs Czechoslovakia and USSR vs Finland in Tampere.

The final part of the championship is close at hand, with the four best teams having to play for the medals between April 24 and 29 depending on the results of the first round.

EQUESTRIAN NEWS

Melania Smith, USA, won the world show jumping cup in the three-day event in Göteborg. She is the first female winner yet in the cup four-year history.

The world show jumping cup is contested in several stages in the European and American zones, with the top competitors qualifying for the final.

Smith rode a horse named Calypso and was the only contestant to wind up without penalty points. Second-placed noted West German Paul Schockemöhle got one penalty point, while Briton John Whitaker and Austrian Hugo Simon shared third place with 10 points each.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS DISAPPOINTED

The USSR national team went down to Loma Negra from the town of Olavarría, 1-0, on its current tour of Argentina.

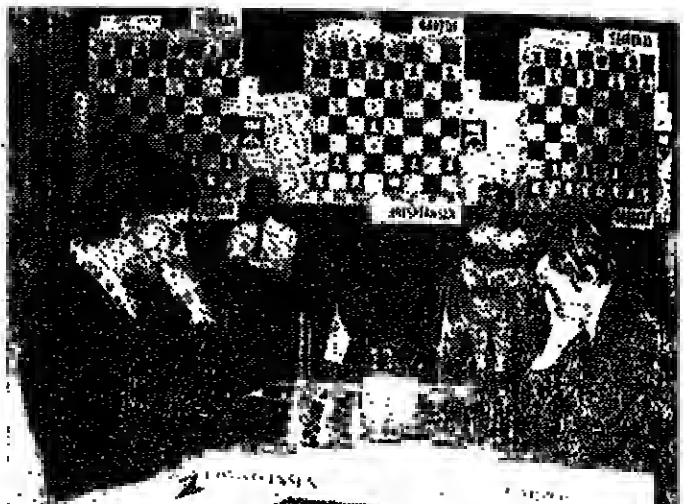
CHESS

Swedish Grandmaster 1711 Andersson leads in a big international chess tournament in London, with 2.5 points after three rounds. He drew his latest game

with Ljubomir Ljubojević, Yugoslavia. World champion Anatoly Karpov tied with Briton Jonathan Speelman and Lajos Poljak, Hungary, but Boris Spassky.

Oleg Romanishin and Lev Pashkis came second and third respectively at an international tournament in Dortmund. The winning Grandmaster, Vlastimil

Hort, Czechoslovakia, totalled 8.5 points out of 11. Romanishin amassed 8 points, and Pashkis 7.5.



World champion Anatoly Karpov vs Larry Christiansen, USA.
Photo UPI-TASS

Oxygen masks at the ready

The first Soviet expedition yet to make an attempt on Mount Everest is working against heavy odds; according to Sir Edmund Hillary, the first climber to conquer this perennially snow-clad and capricious summit, which rises to heights of 8,848 metres, the route selected by the Soviet team was considered until only recently practically inscutable.

In a month of work under very forbidding conditions the team have set up three interim camps, one as high as 8,000 m. The weather this season is very unsettled, with hurricane-force winds and frequent snowfalls hindering the climb; at altitudes of over 7,000 m, temperatures drop far below -20°C, especially at night, which is very rare for the spring climbing season in

the Himalayas. Still, the Soviet expedition moves steadily upwards, never coming up on a route which gets longer by the day.

The first group led by Eduard Myslovsky had a particularly tough time of it for eight days apart from getting up the first camp at a height of 7,820 m, it cleared the way for another 150 metres uphill.

The groups led by Valentin Ivanov and Karbek Valiyev will take over from there, while the fourth group, led by Valery Khramov, will have to set up camp No. 4 at an altitude of 8,200 m and ascend still further.

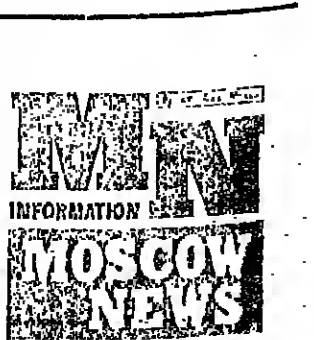
On reaching 7,000 metres the team started using their oxygen masks.

Handball: a Gullivers' game?

The Central Army Club, the Minsk Army Club and Kuntsevo, plus another three clubs will vie for the national men's handball title in the final round of the championship.

Soviet handball line-up chief coach Alexander Yevlushenko thus commented on the elimination games in Kaliningrad: The teams' standards have appreci-

ably levelled off, most games ending with a goal or two superiority margin. This points to the upgraded skills of players in all clubs, he stressed. The recent influx of tall players into all clubs is also gratifying. Yevlushenko said—the recent world championship made it clear that only teams with tall players can hope to win.



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The Kremlin Palace of Congresses. The Presidium of the ceremonial meeting dedicated in the 112th anniversary of the birth of V. I. Lenin.

ETERNAL YOUTH OF LENINISM

Without the strong peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union an irreparable disaster would have overtaken our planet.

Moscow is prepared for a constructive dialogue with Washington.

In the theory and practice of Leninism, the problems of world peace, and in particular, the problem of war and peace, occupy an exclusively important place, said Yuri Andropov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee in his report to the celebration meeting in Moscow dedicated to the 112th anniversary since the birth of Vladimir Lenin.

The new society does not need war which is contrary to all its interests and ideals, and to all the strivings of the working people. Today, when the question of war and peace has become a matter of life and death for entire nations and for human civilization itself, the ideas expressed by Lenin have acquired an unusual importance.

MILITARY MIGHT CANNOT ENSURE PEACE

The Soviet Union has never proceeded from the idea that a lasting peace can be achieved only through military force and through policy based on such force.

Such a policy leads not to peace, but to an arms race, to confrontation and eventually, to war.

That we have lived for almost forty years in peace, that we can look forward confidently to the future, is due in no small measure to the foreign policy pursued by the Soviet Union and to the battle it wages against the threat of a nuclear catastrophe in the name of life and the preservation and prosperity of mankind.

Our people are convinced that another world war can be averted. In order to achieve this, it is necessary that vigorous actions should be undertaken by all peace-loving forces, all governments, political parties and leaders who hold dear the future of humanity.

Such action is particularly important today. It is important because, being faced with an unprecedented upsurge in the mass anti-war movement, the advocates of "cold war" step up not only their propaganda efforts, but also their political manoeuvres. In order to deceive the public, attempts are being made to take advantage of the diplomatic negotiations, including the talks on limitation of armaments and our disarmament. Our impression is that sometimes these negotiations are entered into only

for the sake of sowing illusions that in this way the arms race may be continued by talking the vigilance of the public.

TWO LINES AT THE TALKS

This is exactly the line that the West is pursuing at the Vienna talks on the reduction of arms and armed forces in Central Europe. The Soviet Union and the socialist countries on many occasions tried to take these negotiations out of deadlock. But each time their Western partners have found more and more pretexts to prevent an agreement.

It looks as though it was with this pattern in mind that the American delegation began negotiations to limit medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. The situation is made all the more complicated by the limitations of time.

As is known, a short while ago, Washington again promised that the Americans will soon be ready to start negotiations on limiting and reducing strategic weapons. There is no need to believe in this alarming negotiations. The Soviet Union is ready to hold such talks.

In the speeches made at the 17th Trade Union Congress and of celebration in Tashkent, Leonid Brezhnev set forth a whole complex of constructive proposals.

Salyut-7 in orbit

As part of its programme for space exploration, the Soviet Union put Salyut-7, a scientific orbital station, into orbit, on April 19, 1982.

The station has been launched to continue the scientific and technical experiments carried out in Soviet manned orbital complexes for the benefit of science and the national economy. During the flight the on-board system and instruments will be further studied.

According to telemetric information, Salyut-7's on-board systems are functioning normally.

LENIN PRIZE WINNERS FOR 1982

It has become already a tradition with the Committee for Lenin and State Prizes to name the Lenin Prize winners on one of these April days when the country celebrates Lenin's birthday.

Among this year's winners is a group of scientists, led by Academician Dmitry Skobeltsyn, who made a whole series of fundamental discoveries in nuclear physics in the course of many years of cosmic ray studies. The results thus obtained are pertinent to both high-energy physics and the physics of cosmic rays.

A great contribution to geology has been made by a group led by Academician Yevgeny Sergeyev. In their monograph, "Engineering Geology of the USSR", they, for the first time ever, gave a comprehensive survey of the geological conditions throughout the USSR.

A Lenin Prize has been given for the theoretical, experimental and clinical assessment of the use of immobilized enzymes. These enzymes are placed into a certain carrier which, circulating in the blood, is being slowly destroyed thus prolonging the effect of a drug. This method is highly effective in the treatment of blood clotting and heart attacks. This work was supervised by Academician Yavovoy Chazov.

A Lenin Prize also goes to a group led by Professor Mikhail Rudakov for their major study and development of special wide-aperture optical instruments.

The list of Lenin Prize winners for 1982 in literature, art and architecture includes Mikola Bazhan, Ukrainian poet and translator, scholar and journalist.

The Bolshoi Theatre singer, Yorgany Nestaranko, won the prize for the Georgian composer Otia Taktakishvili.

Director Lev Kulidzhanov, playwrights Anatoly Gribkov and Boris Dobrodorov, cameraman Vadim Yusov as well as young actors Vasilyev, Kisev from Bulgaria and Benita Bluma from the GDR were given the prize for the TV serial "Earl Mark Early Years".

Those awarded for the Olympic sport complex in Moscow built for the 1980 Olympics include architects Leonid Kuznetsov and Boris Zhurav. Also awarded are Melnikov Oleg, Igor, Mark Buzdun, the art director of the Moscow Children's Musical Theatre Natalia Sait, popular movie and dramatic actor Kirill Lavrov, and artist Dmitry Nalbandyan.

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"MN Information" comes out on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and in the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies. Nothing short of the material carried in the editions of both "Moscow News" and "MN Information" gives you a full idea of life in the Soviet Union for the week.

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Round the Soviet Union

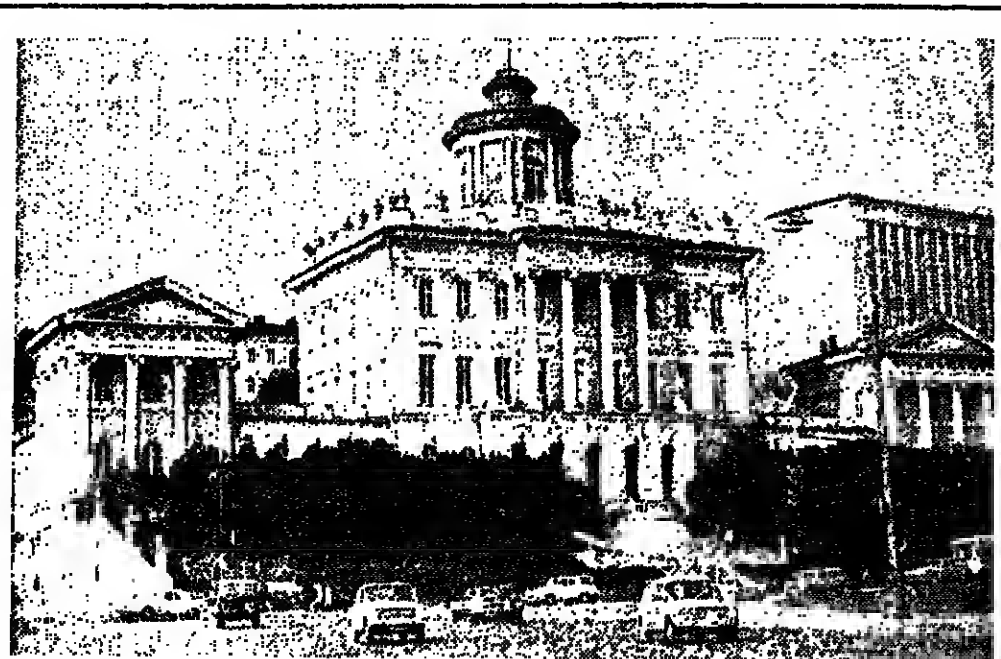
● ASTRONOMERS AT THE SHEMAKHA ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY, ATTACHED TO THE AZERBAIJAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, HAVE COMPILED A CATALOGUE OF OUTER SPACE X-RAY SOURCES. It contains data on all the 677 known sources published by specialists. The Azerbaijani physicists have not only systematized the coordinates and brightness of the sources by using from various countries, they have also determined the class of the new so-called slow X-ray stars.

● SCIENTISTS AT THE INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC SYNTHESIS OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR HAVE SYNTHESIZED hormones which play a major role in human and animal processes, especially in the stimulation of endocrine mechanisms. Much of the institute's work is concentrated on the synthesis of natural compounds.

● THE KYZYL-TUU BLOOD-STOCK STATE-FARM, IN THE DZHAHOI-DZHOI REGION OF KIRGHIZIA, IS THE NATION'S largest supplier of goat down for making the renowned Orenburg down scarves. The farm has a large consignment of down to the Orenburg factory which produces these scarves. Soon another 15,000 tonnes is to be shipped.

● THE "SHELF-2" FLOATING PLATFORM WHICH HAS ARRIVED AT THE PORT OF BAKU WILL HELP TO EXTEND OIL PROSPECTING OPERATIONS IN THE CASPIAN, BY DRILLING 6,000-METRE BOREHOLES. A special device damps the waves enabling the rig to operate in a point-six storm. The "Shelf-2" platform can work in areas where the sea is up to 200 metres deep.

● THE NEW "OELATI" TRADE UNION RESORT IN GEORGIA IS MEANT FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF SOVIET CITIZENS. It recently opened its doors to its first visitors: 200 mothers and their children. Resorts catering for families have been established in the Georgian towns of Berzhom, Nebeglevi, and Kibulati.



THE LENIN LIBRARY

In August 1893, the following entry appeared on the list of persons wishing to use the reading-room of Moscow's only public library: "Vladimir Ulyanov, Marxist aide".

The reading-room staff and readers—it was frequented by Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Anton Chekhov—had no idea who the young man was. Though several decades later UNESCO would describe him as the most widely read author in the world.

Today the library, now named after Lenin, is the biggest in this country.

Over 8,000 people a day make use of its 22 reading-rooms. The Lenin Library (formerly the Rumyantsev public library founded in 1862) has 31,000,000 books and magazines.

An electronic computer console, a conveyor belt and pneumatic dispatch make life much easier for the 3,000-strong staff.

A book exchange is maintained



with nearly 4,000 libraries and other organizations across the world. But international cooperation can take other forms: for instance, the library organizes seminars on library science and exhibitions on an exchange basis. Library staff contribute articles to special publications, participate in conferences, colloquia, and in the work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.



COAL FROM SOVIET KAZAKHSTAN

A new coal deposit, found to the south of the city of Tselinograd, in Kazakhstan, is estimated to contain 500 million tonnes of coal.

Its thick seams lie close to the surface and can be mined by the cheap open-pit technique. What is more, the deposit is located near an electrified railroad leading to the industrial area of the Urals.

At present Kazakhstan accounts for one-sixth of the Soviet Union's coal output. It supplies coal not only to its own industrial centres but also to Western Siberia and to the Soviet republics in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan's mineral resources are far from exhausted: to date, only half of the known coal deposits in the republic have been worked.

A big fuel and energy centre is being built up on the basis of the Ekibastuz coal deposit in Kazakhstan. It is planned to build four thermal power stations there with a capacity of four million kilowatts each. One of them is already in operation. Power generated at the centre will be transmitted to the central regions of the USSR, in the Urals, to the Altai and the Kazakhstani.

SEA JANITORS

Kamchatka's coastal waters are to be well protected by a special boat to be built at the shipbuilding yards. The ship which is designed in the USSR will be registered at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, has passed her sea trials.

The first such ship built at the yards ten years ago could only operate within a radius of the port water area; the new ships, however, will deal with oil slicks in the open sea. There has been a twofold increase in their speed and working rate, this enables them to clean up two and a half hectares of sea in an hour.

I believe, Alexandrovsky goes on, that there will come a time when physicians will prescribe personal drugs for patients after having gone into the peculiarities of their case histories and character, the sort of drug that can help one particular patient only. So far this is still just a dream, but chemists are approaching their aim in a persistent and painstaking manner.

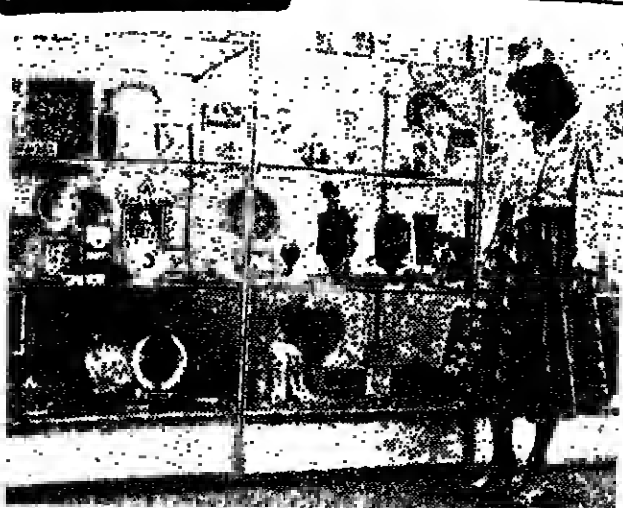
KINDNESS OF A SPECIAL SORT

What general qualities, in your opinion, should be possessed by a film director or by someone working in the arts? This question was put by the SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIA newspaper to film director Stanislav Roslovsky, who made the film "The Down Here Are Quiet", "Let's Live Till Monday" and "White Bells Black Bells".

I think that the most important quality in anyone is kindness, says Roslovsky. This kindness, however, should not be passive and off-living. On the contrary, kindness should be active. To me, the essence of "Let's Live Till Monday" could be summarized as follows: "His most important gift was his ability to feel the sufferings of others as if they were his own. It is this gift that gives birth to rebels and poets." Roslovsky believed this to be the most important feature of the Russian national character. An artist needs this quality more than anybody else. He is sad not because of himself, but because of what is happening around him.

One can make a very truthful film, expose vice and show up shortcomings. Yet, if this is done by someone posing as a wise man, by someone who says without compassion: "Everything you do is wrong! Just see how funny you all look!" then in such a person I see only the desire to assert himself, to make fun of people and to mock at their vices and troubles. I can't accept such an attitude though it might look truthful.

Places to visit



The Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent

An eight-room museum has been opened at the Executive Committee offices of the Alliance of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR (S. Chervomushkiny Prospekt). Dedicated to socialist work in helping the victims of war and natural disasters it provides a comprehensive illustration of all sides of their activities. The Alliance today unites 105 million members.

On the display stands are photos of hospitals in Algeria, Ethiopia and Iran, and information showing the help given to victims of cyclones and earthquakes in Italy, Guatemala and Tunisia.

The exhibits pertaining to airborne medical units are of particular interest. The Alliance was the initiator of aviation medicine in this country. As early as 1928 it founded the first special aeroplanes working in this field.

GEORGIA'S SMALL TOWNS

A new town has appeared on the map of Georgia, a Soviet Transcaucasian republic. It is called Madneuli, which means "new town" in Georgian. Walking along the green streets of Madneuli, however, lined with orchards and vineyards on either side, it is hard to imagine that the city owes its construction to the ore mining works based on a major copper mine nearby.

A comparatively short time ago ore was extracted and processed at the mine by peasants in neighbouring villages on a seasonal basis. The building of the works and then later of the town around it, envisaged by the master plan for the social development of the district, had a double aim: first, to ensure a supply of valuable ore to the mining conditions of the population of this mountainous district, to provide them with jobs and additional sources of income, thus halting the migration of inhabitants of the district to big cities.

Each family living in Madneuli not only has a well-appointed apartment, but also a private plot of land for garden and vineyard. The city has shops, a palace of culture, schools, cinemas, a library as well as a television relay transmitter.

Over a quarter of a century, 15 settlements in the mountainous areas of Georgia have been given the status of towns. Small towns on created in Georgia on the basis of a long-term programme for the social development of mountainous areas, which was adopted by the government of the republic. More than 40 million roubles from the state budget are earmarked annually for the implementation of the programme.

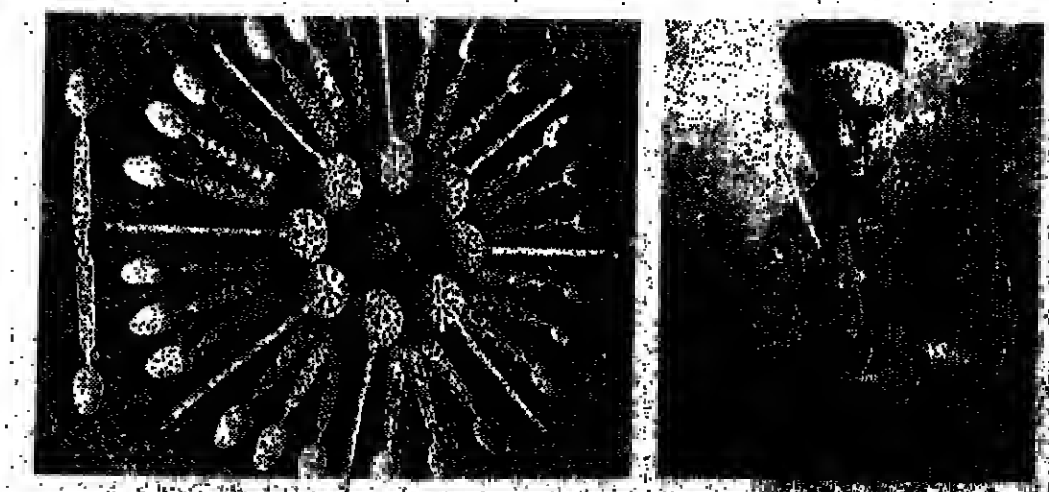
The mills and factories, around which the new towns are built, are fitted out with purification installations to prevent environmental pollution. But though they now enjoy urban type amenities and comfort, workers of mills and factories continue their agricultural pursuits. The excess output of vegetables, fruit, grapes and grain crops which they grow on their private holdings near the towns is purchased by the state. The income of the population of Georgia's mountainous regions has grown more than twofold in recent years.

Catalogue of rare books

A recent catalogue of rare books, covering three centuries, has been put out by Lvov University.

It provides details of unique examples of the bookmaking art—many of which have only been preserved in single copies. They include a Polish adaptation in verse of the "Iliad" published in 1598 in Lvov. The Ostrozhak ABC is also a rarity, the only copy being in the possession of a Sofia library.

The catalogue dates from 1577 when the first Lvov Ivan Fedorov publication, "The ABC" and "The Apostle", appeared. There are 760 listed items altogether in the catalogue.



Can a spoon be a work of art? Feliks Varganov, from Shavli, has made a spoon into a masterpiece. Each wooden spoon he has made is distinguished by its intricate pattern and beauty of the design. His spoons are displayed at many exhibitions and have been acquired by many museums.

Science and technology

EARTH'S RADIUS GROWS LONGER

The radius of our planet is gradually growing longer. Soviet researchers hold that the Earth's radius has grown by a third since the Earth came into being as a space body. This change in size, in their opinion, is the result of an expansion in the ocean floor which occurs along the median oceanic ridges that encircle the planet from pole to pole. The other, recently Soviet researchers obtained further confirmation of the correctness of this assumption—they recorded an expansion in ocean boundaries.

It would appear that the Pacific Ocean floor expands the most actively of all—linear size of its floor is reaching by several centimetres. The Arctic Ocean expands most slowly of all.

The ocean floor, a TASS correspondent was told at the Institute of Geology of the USSR Academy of Sciences, expands because huge masses of matter occur from the depths of the planet and, erupting, force the oceanic crust apart. In the process the inside of our planet becomes less dense while its volume grows.

The Earth expands not constantly, but in a pulsation way. The full period, geologists maintain, lasts at times millions of years.

The increase in the Earth's volume helps on its movement. It gradually shows down. A good deal of proof in support of this theory has been accumulated. One of the last pieces of proof has been provided by coral sections which are several hundred years old. Corals, like trees, record internal changes in their body. Annual rings of ancient corals include 481 marks and new ones—365, the number of days in a year.

HIGHLIGHTING PROPERTIES OF CRYSTALS

To determine the properties of semiconductor crystals grown in an ingot used to be considered impossible. They would reveal their secrets only when stripped of their outer layers. Thanks to a method suggested by the chair of physics of the Riga Polytechnical Institute II has now proved possible, however, to look behind the thick casing and in this way to determine whether what is inside corresponds to technological requirements. What remained invisible even to an X-ray, can now be seen quite clearly when electrical current is passed, for the purpose through an ingot lying on a magnetic field the picture of the crystal appears on an oscilloscope screen. If this becomes possible to determine its shape and the size of its cross-section, the entire operation takes seconds. This kind of X-ray procedure can easily be set up in some laboratories and at factories.



'VITYAZ' OFF AGAIN

The "Vityaz" research ship, which recently returned from her maiden voyage, put out to sea again and is on her way to explore the Cayman Deep which lies south of Cuba.

In the photo: the "Vityaz" in port at Novorossiysk before setting sail.

Children try their hands at cartoons

A film studio in the Estonian town of Rapla, "only employs" people who are under seven years of age.

Those who run this unusual studio base their work on the peculiarities of children's psychology. Little children, enjoy drawing and, at a tender age, their imagination is limitless, a quality that is much sought after by the artist.

The first cartoon put out by the studio began with the children being set around a big table and asked to let their imaginations run on the subject of

"Little Red Riding-Hood". There were many interesting drawings—all the children turned out to be born cartoonists. Specialization was next on the agenda. Some of the children were found to be better at animals, others at landscapes, and still others at people. The drawings finished, the children then recorded the sound track—the artists became actors.

The premiere of the cartoon took place at the Rapla kindergarten where it received a warm welcome.

VIEWPOINT

Capital construction in USSR: why the slow-down?

Alexander DEDUL

The Soviet Union spends about 20 per cent of its national income annually on the expansion and renewal of its fixed assets. During the past decade 1,128,000 million roubles were spent on this purpose. In physical terms this amounts to 3,200 new large industrial enterprises, a great number of authorized projects, new major railways and roads, oil and gas pipelines and new hydraulic, heat and atomic power stations. Thousands of schools, kindergartens and nurseries and out-patient departments, rail-trails and catering establishments, as well as sports, cultural and recreational facilities. About 175,000 million roubles were spent on housing and public amenities. This means that 100 million Soviet citizens were able to improve their housing conditions. About 200 new towns appeared on the country's map during these years.

Experience has shown, however, that a stable growth in the national income can no longer be ensured through a simple building-up of production capacities. Besides, against a background of fast growing capital investment, a slow-down in the growth rates in national income took place.

Our economists have provided the following explanation for this—in our country's productive forces have reached the level where possibilities of extensive growth have been largely exhausted. The way forward now lies via intensified production and the better utilization of existing resources.

On the other hand, an excessive increase in the number of unfinished projects also commits a shift in priorities. The reduction in the number of unfinished projects to a standard level, is equivalent to 23,000 million roubles of extra investments. The fifth five-year plan has already taken into account these factors.

Experience shows that money invested in modernizing a plant pays back three times faster than money put into new projects. At the same time working conditions are improved, the technological level of the enterprises is raised, as well as their performance and the quality of their products.

To give an example, 40 factories and combines have been modernized in the Ivanovo Region known as the country's textile mill. Here there are 40,000 units of technological equipment were installed and 120,000 machine-tools and machines updated. As a result production went up by 23 per cent, and there was a considerable improvement in quality. The new equipment facilitated the release of 27,000 workers, which is particularly important in the present prevailing conditions of an inadequate workforce. Workers' and engineers' productivity has increased by 60 per cent while investment in the plant has been reduced by 50 per cent. This means that lower investment growth rates will not hinder the overall rate towards higher industrial output.

Better management policy and improved planning facilities will be responsible for 50 per cent of the planned increase in production output. This means that lower investment growth rates will not hinder the overall rate towards higher industrial output.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

EKIBASTUZ COAL

The Ekibastuz basin in Kazakhstan, one of the largest in our country, contains about 14,000 million tonnes of coal, writes PRAYDA. Coal from Ekibastuz is used at 20 large thermal power stations in Siberia, the Urals and Kazakhstan. Each day 3,000 railway trucks leave Ekibastuz carrying the cheapest coal in our country. The boggy, the world's largest open-cut seam, produces 50 million tonnes of coal a year.

WESTERN SIBERIA AS

GEOLOGISTS' MAIN OBJECTIVE

Why do they attribute such tremendous significance to the accelerated development of natural resources in Western Siberia? How will your ministry contribute to carrying out this programme? In an interview with SMENA magazine Boris Shcherbin, Minister of Building Enterprises of the Oil and Gas Industry of the USSR, provides an answer to these questions.

Western Siberia supplies our country with over half of the total Union production of oil and with forty per cent of its natural gas.

Looking towards the immediate future, Tyumen alone will be producing one million tonnes of oil and condensate per day by April 1984, and 1,000 million cubic metres of gas per day by January 1985.

Oil and gas is not just fuel, it forms the basis of the chemical industry producing a wide range of new materials and compounds which, when further processed, become implements of labour and thus help to raise productivity.

CHARACTER MADE TO ORDER?

Is it possible to change one's character? Dr. Yu. Alexandrovsky, head of the clinical psychology laboratory at the Institute of Pharmacology, gives his views on this subject in TRUD.

Many ailments are caused by our nerves, Alexandrovsky emphasises. A quarrel may result in a hypertension disease or, still worse, bring on a heart attack. Nerves hit at a person's weak points. If he is predisposed towards bronchial asthma, this ailment will be aggravated after several nervous shake-ups. As in well known, feeling is more difficult than removing the cause of a disease.

It is precisely these patients who find themselves at risk when must "reform" their character. Modern pharmacology has quite powerful methods of treating certain psychic or other disturbances.

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